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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending August 12, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Peaches: Peaches, both freestones and clingstones, are now on all of the western markets in heavy supply, and prices have declined from those of last week an average of about one cent per pound.

The canning season in the clingstone peach area now appears to be in full swing and indications are that the peak of the season may be reached during the next two weeks. California is moving over 30 cars daily by rail to the canneries in addition to shipments by truck.

Illinois, Virginia and Washington are now moving freestone peaches by rail and Arkansas, Georgia and the Carolinas show a downward trend in shipments, indicating that the freestone season in those four states is fast drawing to a close.

Apples: California apples, mostly Gravensteins are moving out of the state at the rate of 30 cars daily. Thus far this season the total movement is about 200 cars under that for the same date last year.

Prices on the western wholesale markets for Gravensteins range from \$2.75 to \$5.00 per box of unwrapped, place pack. Transparents and Wealthys are reported on the Northwestern markets with prices closing the week at \$2.00 to \$2.50 per box. Siberian Crabapples have made their appearance at prices ranging from 8 to 10 cents per pound.

Watermelons: Oregon watermelons made their first appearance this week, with prices on the wholesale market at Portland averaging about $3\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound. Stocks from other states on the same market were moving at $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound. On other western wholesale markets watermelons closed the week at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 cents per pound.

Pears: The movement of pears by rail into the markets to date this season is only about half that of last year. Total shipments from California and Washington are now 1967 cars. Shipments are rapidly increasing and stocks on the fresh markets are piling up since the pears are not yet ripe enough to be moved rapidly through the retail outlets.

Packed and wrapped Bartletts on the wholesale markets were priced at \$4.50 to \$5.00 per box at the close of the week. This is little change from closing prices for the week previous.

According to official U. S. Department of Agriculture figures released August 10, the Bartlett pear production in Oregon, Washington and California makes up 71 percent of the total pear crop of 511,325 tons in the six western states which include Idaho, Utah and Colorado. Total 1943 crop for these states was 526,375 tons.

Tomatoes: The movement of fresh tomatoes for retail trade has held about the same as toward the end of the week previous, and prices were somewhat lower on the average, although in the Northwest there was a slight strengthening toward the end of the week. "Green wraps" are moving out of Southern California. Canners are taking a large portion of the Merced County, California, tomatoes. The Milton-Freewater harvest is reported to be more than half completed.

Onions: Indicated late onion production for the United States as of August 1, is 17,320,000 - 100-pound sacks. This is 46 percent greater than the ten-year average and is almost 51 percent greater than the 1943 crop. For the seven western states the crop is estimated to be 9,565,000 sacks, a 43 percent increase over the 1943 crop and 133 percent increase over the ten-year average. It therefore appears that August, September and October will be heavy onion shipping months.

In the western wholesale markets Yellow Globes closed the week at \$1.75 to \$2.15 per 50 pound bag. On the eastern and middle-eastern markets, the prices were \$1.50 to \$2.25 per bag.

Potatoes: August 1 indications on crop production are that the late potato crop in the seven western potato states will be approximately 100,762,000 bushels while that for the entire thirty late states is estimated at 308,724,000 bushels. The heavy producing western states are Idaho, California and Colorado, which will probably have a 77,145,000 bushel crop, about 2 percent under the 1943 crop.

U. S. number one Long Whites on the western wholesale markets have sold during the past week at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per hundred pounds.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Declining production and short receipts at the terminal markets throughout the country have made supplies insufficient to meet demands. In several of the markets, retail sales have been further limited to customers. Any prospect of relief through reduction in the set-aside appears to be more than offset by the probable reduction in production. All sales are reported to be pressing ceiling prices.

Eggs: Grade "A" and "AA" large eggs were in the best position from point of demand during the past week, while the smaller grades and quality were a drug on the markets. Production is still up and there are yet heavy supplies available from cold storage. Wholesalers and handlers in many places are taking only sufficient supplies to meet their immediate requirements.

Top price quoted for grade "A" large eggs during the week on Western markets was 48 cents at San Francisco, and top price quoted on grade "A" small was 25½ cents per dozen, also at San Francisco. The difference in the average range in prices during the week, on all the west coast markets for the two grades of eggs, was 23 cents per dozen.

Poultry: There was little change in the live poultry market during the week, although the markets indicated better clearance on fowl and there was a larger supply of young stock. Impending removal of points on some cuts of beef has apparently had a slowing effect on some poultry sales.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: August first estimates indicate that North American supplies of wheat will be approximately 50 million bushels under that of last year. Indications are also that the U. S. supply may be as much as 1,450,000,000 bushels out of the North American total of approximately 2,300,000,000 bushels.

Prices dropped during the week from one to one and a half cents per bushel on most of the terminal markets and demand was slow. On the western markets prices were quoted at the close of the week as \$2.67½ to \$2.72½ per 100 lbs., sacked basis, for number one Soft White and Hard White Wheat, and Hard Red and Western Red at \$1.44 and \$1.47 per bushel.

Barley: August first indications are that the 1944 barley crop will total approximately 7,048,872 tons, 91 percent of the 1943 crop and 16 percent above the ten-year average (1933-42).

Prices during the week declined slightly, and both demand and offerings were slow. Number 2 Bright Western testing 45 pounds was quoted in the Northwest at \$2.25 per 100 lbs., and number 2 testing 46 lbs. was \$2.30 on Friday in the California markets.

Beans: The total crop for all beans in the United States is expected to be 19,754,000 bags, 94 percent of last year's crop. The total crop for the states of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and California is estimated at 8,500,000 bags, 89 percent of the 1943 crop.

Prices on all beans have advanced to the new ceiling levels, and demand is good.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: The movement of cattle on all markets has been heavier this season than last, and on the twelve principal markets there was a 15 percent increase in receipts over last week, and a 34 percent increase over the same period last year. Receipts of calves were also proportionately heavier than last year. On the western markets, grassers were moving in heavy volume and for the most part were in good condition. Prices were on the decline but the top prices on most lots of good grassers ranged from \$12.00 to \$14.00 per cwt.

Hogs: Offerings and receipts of hogs on the twelve principal markets were lighter this past week by about 6 percent compared with the week previous, and about 10 percent under those for the same period last year.

Top prices of \$15.50 to \$15.75 were reported on support weight hogs on the western terminal markets. Barrows and gilts were moving at slightly weaker prices and sows were somewhat higher, but all were near or pressing the ceiling.

Sheep: Live lambs shipped out of California during the spring months totaled 253,000 head, 13 percent more than last year. The 1944 shipments were 42 percent of the 1935 record of 590,000 head. Receipts on the twelve principal markets this past week were 70 percent of the receipts for the same period last year.

Top prices quoted during the past week on western markets were \$13.50 to \$14.75 per cwt.

